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PROCESS FOR MAKING LSI CHIPS HAVING BOTH RULES DRIVEN AND FREE FORM DESIGN

William F. Colton, Woodbridge, Bela Gogos, Manassas, and William Rosenbluth, Reston, Va., and Douglas H. Rutherford, Severna Park, Md., assignors to International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, N.Y.

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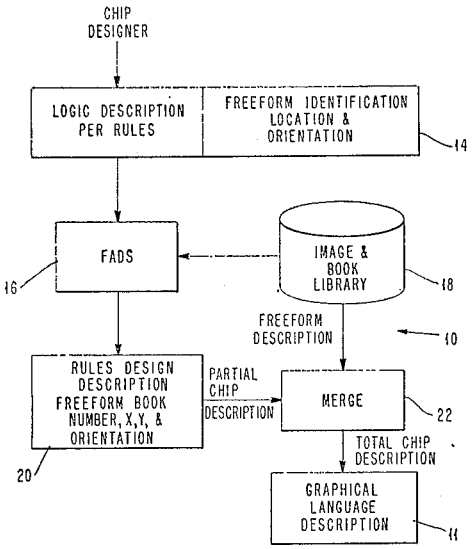

Stored in a design automation (DA) system is a library of predesigned graphical descriptions that describe circuits designed by the free form technique. A chip designer would layout a chip including both free form and rules driven portions. An input is fed to the DA system which specifies the rules driven design in the established manner and specifies the free form design by defining the library description thereof, and the relative placement of the design on the chip. The system in response to such input generates a graphical description of the rules driven design without doing any automatic checking of the internals of the free form design. The generated description or topology is then merged with the free form description or topology from the library to form a complete chip description from which is derived data for making the masks.